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The Too-Visible CIA

READERS of the New York Times are being treated to a series of articles detailing the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. These articles suggest to us that altogether too much is known about the CIA, which is supposed to be the government's super espionage agency.

We would judge the CIA's effectiveness not by how much is known of its activities but by how well it stayed quiet and out of sight. The truly effective secret agent is the unknown one.

One of the troubles is, we expect, that the CIA, being an American agency, feels that it must operate on the American scale, which makes everything bigger than life so that it cannot be concealed and, indeed, must from time to time be publicized as if it were a Great Society spending agency.